

is now presented to the President is the most momentous and in many respects the most dangerous since the war began. The German reply virtually makes the peace issue paramount to every war activity until the suspense is relieved by a definite statement from the President. Until that comes every eye here awaits that uncertainty tending to obscure the war efforts and put a damper on enthusiasm will necessarily prevail.

Many believe that the Imperial German Government already has achieved part of its object by permeating the atmosphere in enemy countries with peace thoughts and creating the impression that the war is virtually over. Officials here believe that Germany deliberately made the text of the note public in advance of its receipt by President Wilson to accomplish this end.

But even in advance of the receipt of the official text by the President sentiment here and in Entente countries appears to have been crystallized in the form of "unconditional surrender" as the only terms which the Entente and the United States would accept.

Military experts in France warn against letting the Prussian war machine, now reeling under repeated blows, escape intact by an agreement to permit it to return to its own soil. A plan of strategy, they still believe, must move the menace of future Prussian militarism for all time is said to have been worked out. This plan, it is said, would not be a treaty of peace, but a political one, and must be signed by civil governments, which, if rightly advised, will never suspend the action of military or naval forces except after acceptance by the enemy Government of satisfactory preliminaries. These may consist of principles of which the details are to be settled at subsequent negotiations.

The attitude of the military commanders is regarded here as of prime importance because even if President Wilson should accept the German reply as a ground for suggesting an armistice to the Entente he would find the matter in its last analysis resting on the judgment of the military leaders. It is noted that Sir Douglas Haig has already issued a warning to his troops to disregard the influence of the peace rumors. Military men here follow the same line.

An armistice in the common interpretation of the term means an arrangement entered into by opposing armies and subject to conditions perfectly worked out on the battlefield. Likewise unconditional surrender means giving over of arms and equipment by the defeated army or at least enabling the victorious army to take possession of the strategic points which guarantee no further military resistance on the part of the enemy.

Permitting the enemy to retire with his war machine intact to his own soil is in no sense would constitute unconditional surrender, according to the view advanced in diplomatic circles to-day and which coincides with that taken by many at the Capitol.

Question of Guarantees. The occupation of Strasbourg, Metz and other points in German territory and the insistence upon sufficient disarmament of the German forces to guarantee against further attack perhaps would bring about the same effect as unconditional surrender, it is explained, but not in the sense that the Imperial German Government would listen to such an effective means of really guaranteeing their good faith and peace.

Diplomats also discuss the question of whether Germany's proposal to evacuate invaded territory would mean withdrawal from Alsace and Lorraine. The interpretation placed by the President's authority on the President's fourteen terms was that it would not include these provinces.

It also is suggested that Germany would not consider herself bound to evacuate Russian or Rumanian territory for the reason that she is not now at war with Russia and that consequently her troops are not "invading" those countries.

Other points which diplomats touch on are: Assuming the present German reply to be in a measure sincere and assuming that it does represent the will of the Germans and the people in Germany what guarantee is there that the Kaiser and the Imperial war lords do not covet the programme at any time they might find it advantageous?

Why was the reply signed by Dr. Wilhelm S. Solf, State Secretary of Foreign Office, instead of Prince Maximilian, to whom the President's inquiry was addressed?

The omission of the word "Imperial" in the note as given out in the unofficial text is also commented upon. The failure to mention Turkey as one of the allies of Germany is also noted and regarded as significant.

For Public Consumption. The German answer is believed to have been drawn up for public consumption and with a view of affecting the situation in both Turkey and Austria as well as at home. Turkey, it is known here, practically had served notice on Germany that she was about to quit, but evidently had been held back by the assurances given her by the German statesmen that her answer would be satisfactory.

It may now be pointed out to Turkey that Germany has extended its hand in surrender, not to the foe who hammered her into submission, but to the one enemy whom she has mildly offended and whose persons she claims for damages; will necessarily prove the most moderate. Yet no surrender could be more complete, more sudden, and for these reasons we must hold it in suspicion. The German statesmen who are making the peace move are the master criminals who inspired the organized atrocity.

Both Austria and Turkey, it is believed, are too far gone to hold out long against the allied armies.

**SOLF ENTERS DENIAL OF SACKED VILLAGES**

**Asserts Devastation Does Not Mark German Retreat.**

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 13.—Dr. W. S. Solf, the German Imperial Foreign Secretary, in an interview sent broadcast by the Wolff Bureau, the German semi-official news agency, is quoted as saying: "The particularly malicious campaign of incitement with which a part of the enemy news service has accompanied the present crisis of the war is the continuously repeated accusation that in our retreat we have purposefully and systematically devastated occupied French territory. It is untrue that our troops slaughter wounded, intentionally blow up hospitals and schools, rob churches and commit other crimes against enemy prisoners and populations."

"The work of destruction, which in our retreat, as in every operation of retreat in history, was unavoidable, and everywhere has been restricted to measures of really indispensable necessity which are intended to prevent retreating army from leaving in the hands of the enemy bases which to a great extent are of a military character."

Dr. Solf asked if the bombardment of French towns by the British and French was a military necessity.

"Have they not sought for the sufferings of the civilian populations," he continued, "which leave endangered places in swarms in pouring rain and soil all along roads the beginning in quest of protection? The feeding of the civilian population in night in taking the resources of the German occupation authorities. Indeed, they scarcely can cope with this task."

## WANT COBLENZ AND METZ AS HOSTAGES

Continued from First Page.

Germany is scoffed at as proposing a conference at which the Kaiser's representatives would sit. The whole tenor of the comments is to the effect that peace terms must be dictated, not negotiated; that no armistice is possible unless it be approved by Marshal Foch as guarantee not only of the evacuation of occupied territory but also giving the Allies possession of strategically essential positions in enemy territory that would guarantee the Allies against loss of their present military advantage should Germany resume hostilities.

**Solely Military Question.** Spencer Wilkinson, who is an acknowledged authority on military history and strategy, makes the following statement: "The question of the suspension of hostilities is a military question, not a political one. The Government which overrules its military commander on this question makes a mistake which may be fatal. The question of the terms of a treaty of peace is a political one and must be settled by civil governments, which, if rightly advised, will never suspend the action of military or naval forces except after acceptance by the enemy Government of satisfactory preliminaries. These may consist of principles of which the details are to be settled at subsequent negotiations."

**PRESS INSISTS ON FULL REPARATION**

**British Public Demands That Surrender Be Absolute.**

LONDON, Oct. 13.—The text of the German reply to President Wilson's note reached the British Foreign Office this morning from the British Minister at The Hague. Arthur J. Balfour, the Foreign Secretary, and Andrew Bonar Law, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, were the first to see it, and to confer with Premier Lloyd George.

At this juncture it is improbable that any responsible British Minister will make a detailed declaration on the situation arising from the reply. The first step seems to be for the President to consult with the Allies for a general consideration of the German answer.

On its face the German note, according to an authoritative source, seems to be an acceptance not only of the points of the President's declaration in January, but also of the subsequent statements, thus may be said to look as if the Germans meant acceptance, but of course, it was pointed out, the real difficulty is that Germany has hitherto shown an utter disregard of obligations to speak the truth or keep her word. The phraseology of the note, it is held, does not yet make it definitely clear whether the President's terms are accepted outright or are only regarded as a basis for discussion.

**Effect on London Crowds.** The reply was received in London to-day last night and the theatre and restaurant sections, where at first glance it was accepted as meaning peace, in many places the crowds were simultaneously and sang the national anthem. After its publication in the morning newspapers, however, expressions of suspicion were heard on all sides. Many searched the note for some evidence that it might be a ruse to save the German armies from utter destruction, but most of the people are awaiting an authoritative lead before forming a definite opinion.

"Unconditional surrender" is rapidly gaining popularity with the average citizen as a response to the German document, and many would not be satisfied with anything less. This feeling is accentuated by the German threat to destroy Cambrai and the raising of villages by the enemy in his great retreat, as well as by the sinking of the *Leinster*—all these being acts from which no military advantage could be gained.

America, it is recognized, has saved the cause of the Allies, the *Sunday Observer* says, but it points out that without Great Britain not even America could have saved it any more than it could have saved without France, and that the part played by each of these countries has been vital.

The opinion is expressed here that a mere vague statement, such as the German reply, will not be sufficient, and that there can be no question of stopping military operations. No armistice is possible, it is held, except on most rigorous guarantees that the enemy is not merely making use of the interval to prepare to begin again later.

Germany has extended its hand in surrender, not to the foe who hammered her into submission, but to the one enemy whom she has mildly offended and whose persons she claims for damages; will necessarily prove the most moderate. Yet no surrender could be more complete, more sudden, and for these reasons we must hold it in suspicion. The German statesmen who are making the peace move are the master criminals who inspired the organized atrocity.

Before President Wilson accepts the role of intermediary now thrust upon him we trust he will see fit to remind the German Chancellor that each and all of these problems must be faced.

"The Huns suggest that President Wilson bring about a meeting of a

## SURRENDER TO FOCH, IS FRENCH DEMAND

Continued from First Page.

to the Allies there will be a diplomatic battle to win. We must not undertake anything that savors of a capitulation. The military must announce the conditions of the suspension of arms. One single man must speak—Foch. The Allies say: "The idea of a representative commission denotes a desire to negotiate on an equal footing. There are only two persons in an armistice, namely the conqueror and the vanquished. The one orders, the other obeys."

**For Dictation by Allies.** The *London News* says: "Apparently the Potsdam powers failed to realize that the Allies have never again been in a position to suggest any conditions. The only peace possible is that dictated by the Allies." The *Reynolds Newspaper* says that if Germany thinks all that now remains is to haggle about the conditions at the conference, a very great disillusionment awaits her. The Allies have points in addition to President Wilson's fourteen principles, such as the payment to the utmost farthing for devastation wrought in France. These demands will be demanded, "and explanation for crimes like the torpedoing of the *Leinster* by the handling over of German submarines to replace those sunk by the sea."

**German Leaders Done For.** The *Temps* concludes its editorial thus: "The leaders of Germany are done for. They must at any cost secure a reprieve to their standing with their army and with their people. To discuss with them is to give them back their prestige; to treat with them would be to save them. Let them be told at the earliest moment possible to address themselves to Marshal Foch."

In its earlier survey of the reply the *Temps* editorial says: "The form of the reply is submissive. Germany admits our victory. Let us rejoice. But the formation of the reply is crafty. Germany attempts to dodge all the consequences of her defeat. She asks us to accept her terms. In reality she introduces two restrictions which annul everything."

**Potsdam as Arbitrator.** In connection with the passage in which the German note refers to the Potsdam conference, the *United States* editorial says:

"Germany appears to believe the French and English conquered her herself and that President Wilson intervenes as arbitrator in a foreign quarrel to put everything right."

Instead of promising to withdraw her troops and abstain from devastation, Germany's reply tranquilly demands a mixed commission, where the conquered invader would speak to us as equal to equal, pointing to his hostages when we invoke our victories. There was no question of a mixed commission in January, 1917, when Hindenburg imposed an armistice on France."

The pretense that the German Government has been forced by agreement to a great majority of the Reichstag, the article continues, means nothing. "The same thing was said after the formation of the Hertling Ministry. This Reichstag, which is spoken about by the German press, is the Reichstag of the Hohenzollern regime, not the Reichstag of the Weimar Republic."

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## NEUTRAL ZONE FOR GERMAN SOIL ONLY

Continued from First Page.

British Military Men Object to Any Barred Area Outside Frontiers. The German note is a translation from the German into the French and from the latter into English. Such variations have frequently occurred in the translations of important official documents, and this known fact, if no other, is accountable for the invariable practice by governments concerned of awaiting the official text before accepting as beyond doubt the meaning of documents in question.

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## PERILS OF ARMISTICE SHOWN BY LODGE

Massachusetts Senator Declares Acceptance Will Mean Losing the War.

**SACRIFICES MADE IN VAIN**

**Warns Nothing Short of Surrender Will Suffice—Borah Takes Same View.**

**Special Despatch to The Sun.** WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (Mass.), Republican leader in Congress, in a statement to-night, declared flatly that if the United States agreed now to the armistice sought by Germany the war was lost and all the sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of lives, of untold wealth and the terrible privations undergone by millions would have gone for nothing.

Ending the war now would leave the German military power unbroken, her fleet intact and the Hun hordes technically victors in the great world conflict, Senator Lodge declared. His statement follows:

"Mr. McAdoo and some of the press speak of the German note as authentic as a complete surrender. It is nothing of the kind. It is just the reverse. It is not a surrender and it is highly conditional. If we accept it, we note it means that Germany has failed to conquer the world at this moment and that we have lost the war."

"The President made three inquiries. He proposed no terms; he made no promises; he committed himself to nothing, no matter what the answer might be. The Germans represent his question as terms offered and then say that for the purpose of bringing about an armistice they are ready to accept the President's general propositions and to discuss details. The armistice is the first step, and they propose that evacuation should be arranged by a mixed commission on which they would be represented."

**Gives Germany Every Advantage.** "If we agree to an armistice now the war is lost. If we refuse an armistice the war will be won. If we agree to an armistice Germany will have opportunity to restore and refresh her armies and accumulate munitions. Her fleet is untouched. She will be in exactly the same position territorially as she was when the war began."

"Then she will discuss under the President's general proposition the details. The details include everything that is vital—Alsace-Lorraine, Italy, Ireland, the independence of the Czechs, Slovaks, Jugo-Slavs and Poles; the expulsion of Turkey from Europe and much else equally important to a real peace, and we are to sit around a table and discuss them with Germany, who can refuse everything she does not like under the threat of renewing the war in a more advantageous position."

"It will be a peace of bargain and compromise and the President has said that there can be no peace obtained by any kind of bargain or compromise."

"Our only assurance for what may be agreed to after weeks of discussion would be the German word and the German signature—both worthless. The President has said that 'we cannot accept the word of those who forced this war upon us.' The Government of Germany has not changed. The Chancellor has changed. Changing the Chancellor

**Bulgaria Frees Greeks and Serbs.** SOFIA, via Basel, Oct. 13.—The Bulgarian Minister of the Interior has issued a decree liberating the Greek and Serbian subjects interned in concentration camps in Bulgaria and allowing them to return to their own countries.

It will be noted that this phraseology

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